

International S. S. Lessons.

Adapted from the Westminster Question Book.

THE BRAZEN SERPENT

11 August.

Les. Num. 21: 4-9. Gol. Text, John 3: 14.
Mem. vs. 8, 9. Catechism Q. 32.

HOME READINGS.

M. Num. 14: 1-25. *Moses' Intercession.*
T. Num. 14: 27-45. *The Murmurers Condemned.*
W. Num. 16: 1-22. *Korah's Rebellion.*
Th. Num. 16: 53-50. *The Rebels Slain.*
F. Num. 20: 1-13. *The Smitten Rock.*
S. Num. 20: 14-29. *Death of Aaron.*
S. Num. 21: 1-9. *The Brazen Serpent.*

LESSON PLAN.

- I. The Plague of the Serpents, vs. 4-6.
- II. The Confession of Sin v. 7.
- III. The Way of Cure vs. 8, 9.

Time—September, B. C. 1452, thirty-nine years and six months after the Exodus.

Place—The southern part of the valley of Arabah, which extends from the Dead Sea to the head of the Gulf of Akabah.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

Thirty-eight years now intervened, during which the Israelites had to wander in the wilderness because of their mutiny and refusal to go up and possess the promised land. Num. 14: 33. The principal events of these years were: The stoning of the Sabbath breaker (Num. 15: 32-36); the rebellion and fate of Korah and his associates (Num. 16: 1-40); the staying of the plague (Num. 16: 41-50); the blossoming of Aaron's rod (Num. 17: 1-13); the death of Miriam and the smiting of the rock (Num. 20: 1-13); passage through Edom refused (Num. 20: 14-21); march to Mount Hor and death of Aaron (Num. 20: 22-29); destruction of the Canaanites at Hormah. Num. 28: 1-8.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

4. —*Mount Hor*—on the borders of Edom, forming part of the mountain of Seir. *To compass the land of Edom*—the direct route through the valleys of Edom being closed against them. *Because of the way*—a long and round about route through a sandy desert. 5. *This light bread*—The Manna which God had sent them, Ex. 17. 6. *Fiery serpents*—fiery either in color or in the effect of their bites. *Much people... died*—human remedies failed. So all human remedies for sin fail. 7. *We have sinned*—the scourge brought them to a sense of their sin. *Moses prayed for the people*—as he had frequently done. So Christ ever intercedes for us. 8. *A fiery serpent*—of brass or copper (v. 8) in the form of the serpents that had bitten them. *Set it upon a pole*—so that it might be seen throughout the camp. *Looketh upon it*—thus showing faith in the means of cure which God had provided. 9. *He lived*—by God's blessing upon the look of faith. If he turned away, he died.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

1. Sin brings death—God has provided a remedy.
2. Both the mercies and the judgments of God should lead us to repentance.
3. Faith in Christ is the only way of salvation.
4. All who look to Christ shall live; none need perish.
5. Each one must look and believe for himself.

Everything that happens to us leaves some trace behind: everything contributes imperceptibly to make us what we are.—*Goethe.*

THE NEW HOME IN CANAAN.

18 August.

Les. Deut. 6: 3-15. Gol. Text, Deut. 8-10.
Mem. vs. 3-5. Catechism Q. 33.

HOME READINGS.

M. Num. 21: 10, 22, 1. *From Obeth to the Jordan.*
T. Deut. 6: 1-15. *The New Home in Canaan.*
W. Deut. 8: 1-20. *An Exhortation to Obedience.*
Th. Deut. 11: 8-28. *Blessings to the Obedient.*
F. Deut. 18: 15-22. *A Prophet Like unto Moses.*
S. Deut. 30: 1-20. *Mercies to the Penitent.*
S. Deut. 32: 1-43. *The Song of Moses.*

LESSON PLAN.

- I. God to be Loved, vs. 3-5.
 - II. God's Word to be Honored, vs. 6-9.
 - III. God's Goodness to be Remembered, 10-15.
- Time—January, B. C. 1451, a few weeks before Moses' death,
Place—The plains east of the Jordan, opposite Jericho.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

After the events of last lesson the Israelites continued journeying southward to the Red Sea, then turned northward, east of the Arabah and of the Dead Sea, and conquered the Amorites, who held the territory east of the Jordan from the Dead Sea to the Sea of Galilee. They encamped in the plains of Moab east of the Jordan, opposite Jericho. Here Moses delivered the discourses of this book during the last few weeks of his life, beginning them on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year of the wanderings. Deut. 1: 3-6. Read the first five chapters of Deuteronomy.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

3. *Hear*—indicating the great importance of what is about to be said. *That it may be well with thee*—the fulfilment of God's promises and the continuance of his favors were conditioned on Israel's continuing in the fear of God and in obedience to his law. 4, 5. Jesus called these two verses the first and great commandment. Mark 12: 29-30. *Heart, soul and might*—with all thy powers: with sincere, intelligent, active, supreme love. 8, 9. They were constantly and everywhere to have these commandments in mind, and ever to obey them. 10, 11. *Goodly cities which thou buildedst not*—Canaan and all its wealth would be theirs, an undeserved and free gift. 12. *Beware*—prosperity has its peculiar perils. Compare Mark 10: 23, 24. 13. *Swear by his name*—devote themselves entirely to him with profound reverence and love. Compare Ex. 23: 13. 14. *Other gods*—the things of this world may become our gods, taking the place of the true God in our affections. 15. *A jealous God*—will not suffer his honors to be given to another.

LIFE TEACHINGS.

1. The Lord condescends to intimate relations with us. He permits us to call him our God.
2. He requires our undivided love and perfect obedience. Nothing must be allowed to take the place of God in our affections.
3. His word must be our rule of life. We should love and constantly study it.
4. The Bible must be honored and taught in the family.
5. God's goodness and mercy are to be remembered with thankful obedience.

Bear in mind, my friend, that your happiness or your misery is very much your own making. You cannot create spiritual sunlight, any more than you can create the morning star; but you can put your soul where Christ is shining.